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REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1952



EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

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Vice-Chairman—

COUNCILLOR HENRY O'NEILL, J.P.

COUNCILLORS—

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Clerk—J. W. Gray.

Accountant—E. L. Allison, A.I.M.T.A.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS  
OF THE COUNCIL

---

Acting Medical Officer of Health—J. E. D. MILLER, M.B., B.S.

Senior Sanitary Inspector—R. E. V. WARRAND, Cert.S.I.B.,  
M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

Sanitary Inspector—J. R. DAY, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector—T. J. RICHARDS, Cert.S.I.B., A.R.San.I.

Sanitary Inspector—G. STODDART, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,  
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Sanitary Inspector—P. E. BUDD, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector—P. F. JONES, Cert. S.I.B.

Sanitary Surveyor—R. R. LUMSDEN, Dip.M.Eng.

Cleansing Superintendent—J. W. MOORE.

Water Superintendent—R. BLAKEY.

# EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

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## REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1952

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EASINGTON,

CO. DURHAM,

1953.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of your district for the year 1952.

The work accomplished by the department during the year is described in the various sections of the report. The section relating to the work of the Sanitary Inspectors' department has been compiled by the Senior Sanitary Inspector. Contributions from the Engineer and Surveyor and the Cleansing Superintendent are also included.

The main points of interest contained in the body of the report are summarised in this introductory letter with brief comment where necessary.

### VITAL STATISTICS

This heading includes the figures or rates which allow a comparison to be made between the health of the inhabitants of the district in different years and the health of the country as a whole. They include the birth rate, the general death rate, the infantile mortality rate and the maternal mortality rate.



## BIRTH RATE

The figure of 17·5 per 1,000 of the population shows a slight decline on that of 18·0 for 1951, which in turn was below that of 18·3 for 1950. It remains, however, higher than the rate for England and Wales as a whole (15·3) and the rate for the 160 smaller towns (15·5).

It will be seen that while the decline from the high figures of the post war years continues, the fertility of the district remains at a relatively high level.

## GENERAL DEATH RATE

The figure for the general death rate was 9·99 per 1,000 of the population, a decrease of 1·6 on that for 1951 which was 11·6. It compares favourably with that of 11·3 for England and Wales and is only ·07 per 1,000 higher than the figure of 9·92 for 1948 which was the lowest death rate on record for the Easington Rural District.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY

The infantile mortality rate is the number of children under one year of age who die out of every 1,000 live births, and is a factor of considerable importance in assessing the general health of the district.

The rate for this area in 1952 was 42·8 an increase of more than three on the figure for 1951 which was 39·5. It compares unfavourably with that of 27·6 for England and Wales, and it also remains above the figure for London and the large towns which was 31·2.

Out of a total of 60 deaths of infants under one year 38 (63%) occurred in the first four weeks of life, a neo-natal mortality rate of 26·7 per 1,000 live births. In 17 of these prematurity was given as the primary cause of death and in four as a contributory cause. For the third consecutive year there were three deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis in children under two years of age.

There can be no expression of satisfaction as regards either infantile mortality or neo-natal mortality. In the case of the former the district rate is 15·2 per 1,000 higher than the national rate whilst the death rate of infants under four weeks is 7·8 per 1,000 higher than the figure of 18·9 for England and Wales.

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths in the district during the year.



## INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH

A scrutiny of the table giving the individual causes of death shows that heart disease retains its position at the head of the list with cancer second and diseases of the blood vessels of the brain third. Bronchitis and pneumonia come fourth with tuberculosis (all forms) fifth and the group comprising diseases of early infancy and congenital malformation sixth.

### TUBERCULOSIS

The statistics for this disease are set out and summarised in the relevant section of the report.

The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952 which became operative on the 1st May revoked the Regulations of 1930. A Medical Officer of Health is no longer required to keep a register of tuberculosis notifications but, to quote from Ministry of Health Circular 652, "In the Minister's view he may naturally be expected to do so—and the Minister would urge that he should . . . .". Tuberculosis records have always been strictly kept, not only to fulfil requirements of the Regulations now revoked but also to enable the department to assist wherever possible the persons in this district suffering from the disease. The register and index system of recording of notifications has accordingly been maintained.

There was little change in the number of new cases of both pulmonary and non-pulmonary forms of the disease. The number of deaths from the pulmonary form was, however, only ten as compared with twenty in 1951 and the mortality rate for the district of 0.12 per 1,000 population compares favourably with that for England and Wales (0.21). It is also gratifying to record an improvement in the non-pulmonary rate from 0.049 per 1,000 in 1951 to 0.01.

Of the 46 milk samples submitted during the year to biological examination for tubercle bacilli all were negative with the exception of one reported as inconclusive. Thus for the past two years careful sampling in all parts of the district has failed to produce a positive result.

The Regional Hospital Board Mass Radiography Unit visited Horden on 28th January and remained there until 8th February. There was a satisfactory response, 1,427 persons attending for X-ray. The unit also visited Wheatley Hill from 28th July to 8th August and 482 people attended. During the month of April 223 employees of a factory in the district took advantage of a one-day visit from the unit.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The notifications of these diseases are set out in Table 8. The incidence of scarlet fever increased, 175 cases being notified as compared with 119 in 1951 and 89 in 1950. There were again no deaths from this disease.

Diphtheria notifications numbered six as against 23 in 1951 and 39 in 1950. Not one of these six notifications was subsequently confirmed. It gives satisfaction to report that, in a district with a population of 81,000, not a single case of diphtheria has occurred during the past two years.

There was a decrease in the number of cases of measles, 1,068 being notified as against 1,222 in 1951, and there was one death from this disease as compared with two last year.

Whooping cough notifications numbered 340, more than double the figure for 1951 which was 155. There was one death from this disease during the year.

There were 11 notifications of meningococcal infection during the year, five of which were subsequently confirmed.

Eighteen cases of acute poliomyelitis were notified. Last year this district was entirely free from the disease.

Seven cases of paratyphoid B fever were reported during the year, all of which were confirmed.

Of the 19 cases of food poisoning notified 18 were subsequently confirmed. Details of two minor outbreaks affecting 10 notified cases are recorded in Section II of the report.

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Statistics which have been extracted from the quarterly reports of the County Medical Officer of Health are set out in table form in the body of the report. While the decreases in the figures for both primary and reinforcing immunisation are not so alarming as those reported last year it is, nevertheless, regrettably evident that many parents remain unconvinced about the importance of diphtheria immunisation or are unaware of the grave risk of attack still possible among non-immunised children. No parent can plead ignorance of the facilities available for safeguarding children against the possibility of such attack. Advice by letter, advertisement, and domiciliary visitation is given by the local health authority (Durham County Council) to all parents.

During the year there was a decrease of 49 on primary immunisations and 113 on reinforcing injections.



## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47 of this Act gives local authorities powers to enable them to deal with certain cases of persons in need of care and attention which they are unable to provide for themselves and are not receiving from other people.

It can again be reported that, although demand for hostel and hospital admissions under the Act still greatly exceeds the accommodation available to both the local health authority and the Regional Hospital Board, requests from this department continue to receive every consideration and attention.

## WATER

Routine samples of piped water supply have been taken at various points in the district throughout the year and submitted to bacteriological examination. Out of 61 such samples five were found to be unsatisfactory and prompt action was taken in each case by the water undertaking concerned to remedy the matter. Further details regarding the water supply of the district will be found in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's section of the report.

## SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The section of the report dealing with the environmental services has been contributed by the Senior Sanitary Inspector, and with it is included a section dealing with matters such as water supply and sewerage contributed by the Engineer and Surveyor, and one covering public cleansing by the Cleansing Superintendent. The section contains much of interest and, since the contents do not allow of easy summary, it should be read as a whole.

## STAFF

There were no changes in the Sanitary Inspectors' and Clerical staffs of the department during the year. Mr. B. Stubbs, who had been the Council's Rodent Officer since March, 1949, resigned his appointment in February. The Council appointed Mr. C. S. White as Rodent Officer in April. Consideration by the Council was also given to a recommendation for the appointment of a permanent Rodent Control Operative to assist the Rodent Officer and in April Mr. W. Mills was appointed to this post.

## CONCLUSION

From a perusal of the foregoing paragraphs and the figures contained therein it will be seen that the general health of the area can be said to have been satisfactory in 1952.

The birth rate for the district continues to fall. Since 1947 there has been a consistent decline in the rate from 22 per 1,000 total population in that year to the figure of 17·5 for the year under review. The decrease of 0·5 per 1,000 from the rate for 1951 is not so marked, however, as that for the 160 smaller towns in the country (1·2 per 1,000).

In common with the rest of the country the general death rate for the district improved upon the figure for the previous year and, as mentioned in the comments on vital statistics, showed only a fractional increase on the 1948 district record rate.

Infantile mortality remains a matter for concern and must continue to do so whilst the rate for the district is so much higher than the national rate.

Infantile paralysis and food poisoning were more prevalent during the year, but fortunately neither disease reached epidemic proportion.

In conclusion may I thank the members of the Council for their continued support, and also express my appreciation to the staff of the Health Department for their willing and loyal service throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. E. D. MILLER,

Medical Officer of Health.

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## SECTION I.

## CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

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Area (in acres) .. .. .	34,653
Registrar General's estimate of resident population year, 1952 .. .. .	81,190
Number of Hereditaments on 31st December, 1952 according to the Rate Books .. .. .	24,636
Rateable Value (at 1st April, 1952) .. .. .	£319,434
Sum represented by Penny Rate (1951-52) .. .. .	£1,158

## VITAL STATISTICS

## Births :—Live Births.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	728	668	1396
Illegitimate	17	10	27
	<hr/> 745 <hr/>	<hr/> 678 <hr/>	<hr/> 1423 <hr/>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. .. .	17·53
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## Stillbirths :—

Legitimate	16	21	37
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 16 <hr/>	<hr/> 21 <hr/>	<hr/> 37 <hr/>

Rate per 1,000 total births .. .. .	25·34
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## Infantile Mortality :—

Deaths of infants under 1 year :			
Legitimate	33	25	58
Illegitimate	2	—	2
	<hr/> 35 <hr/>	<hr/> 25 <hr/>	<hr/> 60 <hr/>

### INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES

Death rate of all infants under one year per 1,000 live births, 42·87.

Death rate of legitimate infants under one year per 1,000 legitimate live births, 41·55.

Death rate of illegitimate infants under one year per 1,000 illegitimate live births, 74·07.

### NEONATAL MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under four weeks :—

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ..	22	15	37
Illegitimate ..	1	—	1
	<u>23</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>38</u>
Death rate per 1,000 live births .. ..			26·70
DEATHS .. ..	471	340	811
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. ..			9·99

### MATERNAL DEATHS

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—

from Sepsis .. ..	Nil.
from Other Causes .. ..	Nil.
Total .. ..	<u>Nil.</u>
Maternal Mortality Rate .. ..	Nil.



TABLE 1. DEATHS—CAUSES AND AGES AT DEATH.

	All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks- under 1 year	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	75 up
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	10	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	4	2	1
Tuberculosis, Other	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1
Whooping Cough	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	146	—	—	—	—	2	5	7	26	34	47	25
Diabetes	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	122	4	—	—	1	—	—	2	6	21	41	47
Coronary Disease, Angina	128	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	12	28	41	43
Hypertension with Heart Disease	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6	10
Other Heart Disease	92	—	—	—	—	2	4	3	10	17	19	37
Other Circulatory Disease	39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	8	26
Influenza	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	35	1	9	3	—	—	—	—	4	2	7	9
Bronchitis	23	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	9	4
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	1	4
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	10	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	3	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Congenital Malformations	10	6	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Other Defined and Illdefined Diseases	94	27	3	2	1	2	3	1	5	8	15	29
Motor Vehicle Accidents	7	—	—	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
All Other Accidents	27	—	—	2	1	3	2	3	7	5	3	1
Suicide	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	2	—	—
Homicide and Operations of War	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	811	38	23	10	7	10	20	25	85	139	213	241

TABLE 2.

**Cancer**

The following table gives the deaths from Cancer, in age groups, and the localisation of the disease.

	Ages in Years					Totals
	1 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 to 74	75 up	
Stomach ...	—	3	7	11	4	25
Lung & Bronchus	—	1	16	7	—	24
Breast ...	—	1	4	4	—	9
Uterus ...	—	1	5	2	—	8
Other Causes ...	2	6	28	23	21	80
	2	12	60	47	25	146

TABLE 3.

**Table of Birth and Death Rates for the Past 10 Years**

Year	General Death Rate	Infantile Death Rate	Birth Rate
1943	11.3	75.3	20.6
1944	10.6	59.7	22.2
1945	11.0	54.1	21.1
1946	10.1	53.1	21.9
1947	10.8	63.1	22.0
1948	9.9	43.5	21.1
1949	10.3	48.3	19.6
1950	10.4	49.2	18.3
1951	11.6	39.5	18.0
1952	9.9	42.8	17.5

1952	General Death Rate	Infantile Death Rate	Birth Rate
England & Wales	11.3	27.6	15.3
Easington Rural District	9.9	42.8	17.5

TABLE 4.  
Birth Rate, Death Rate and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1952.

	Rate per 1,000 Total population	Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population								D'th Rate per 1,000 Live Births.				
		Stillbirths	Live Births	All Causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Tuberculosis	Influenza	Smallpox	Acute Poliomyelitis	Pneumonia	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths (under 1 year)
England and Wales	15.3	0.35		11.3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.04	0.00	0.01	0.47	1.1	27.6
Easington Rural District	17.5	0.45		9.9	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.43	2.1	42.9

TABLE 5.  
Infantile Mortality Rates  
(10 years)

Year	Births	Easington R. D. Inf. Mortality Rate	England & Wales Inf. Mortality Rate
1943	1539	75.3	49
1944	1690	59.7	46
1945	1627	54.1	46
1946	1751	53.1	43
1947	1759	63.1	41
1948	1722	43.5	34
1949	1616	48.3	32
1950	1504	49.2	29.8
1951	1468	39.5	29.6
1952	1423	42.9	27.6

TABLE 6.  
Death Rates (10 years)

Year	Deaths	Easington R. D. Death Rate	England & Wales Death Rate
1943	850	11.3	12.1
1944	811	10.6	11.6
1945	848	11.0	11.4
1946	808	10.1	11.5
1947	862	10.8	12.0
1948	809	9.9	10.8
1949	850	10.3	11.7
1950	857	10.4	11.6
1951	945	11.6	12.5
1952	811	9.9	11.3

TABLE 7.  
Natural Increase of Population

Year	Births	Deaths	Rate of Natural Increase per 1,000 population.
1943	1539	850	9.2
1944	1690	811	11.5
1945	1627	848	10.1
1946	1751	808	11.8
1947	1759	862	11.2
1948	1722	809	11.2
1949	1616	850	9.3
1950	1504	857	7.9
1951	1468	945	6.4
1952	1423	811	7.5



## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS 1952

Population	.. .. .	81,190
Area (acres)	.. .. .	34,653
Estimated number of Hereditaments	.. .. .	24,636
Rateable Value (at 1st April, 1952)	.. .. .	£319,434
Sum produced by penny rate (1951-52)	.. .. .	£1,158
Births	.. .. .	1,423
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population		17.53
Deaths	.. .. .	811
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population		9.99
Death rate of infants under one year of age	..	42.87

## CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

Cause	Number	Percentage of total deaths
Diseases of the heart .. .. .	237	29.22
Cancer .. .. .	146	18.00
Diseases of the veins and arteries		
of the brain .. .. .	122	15.04
Bronchitis and pneumonia .. .. .	58	7.15
Tuberculosis (all forms) .. .. .	11	1.36
Tuberculosis (pulmonary) .. .. .	10	1.28
Diseases of early infancy, and congenital malformations under one year .. .. .	10	1.28

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diseases	Cases notified	Number of deaths	Death rate per 1,000 population
Measles .. .. .	1068	1	0.01
Whooping Cough .. .. .	340	1	0.01
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	175	—	—
Tuberculosis (all forms) .. .. .	69	11	0.13
new cases			
Poliomyelitis .. .. .	18	1	0.01
Dysentery .. .. .	16	—	—
Meningococcal Infection .. .. .	11	—	—
Diphtheria .. .. .	6	—	—

Influenza, which is not notifiable, caused one death,

SECTION II.  
TABLE 8.  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
NOTIFIED CASES, 1952

Cases notified in whole district.											
DISEASE	At all ages	Under 1	1 to 2+	3 to 4+	5 to 9+	10 to 14+	15 to 24+	25 to 34+	35 to 44+	45 to 64+	65 and over
Measles ..	1068	53	274	363	373	3	2	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	340	34	103	118	82	2	—	1	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	175	1	12	34	96	21	7	2	1	1	—
Pneumonia ..	70	8	11	5	8	2	3	7	4	14	8
Food Poisoning ..	19	1	2	—	2	—	2	5	2	4	1
Polomyelitis ..	18	—	5	6	4	—	2	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	17	—	—	—	—	—	10	4	3	—	—
Dysentery ..	16	1	2	3	4	—	1	4	1	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	11	—	1	2	1	1	3	—	1	2	—
Erysipelas ..	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	7	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	7	1	1	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	1
Diphtheria ..	6	1	1	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
Malaria ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	60	—	—	—	1	1	23	17	5	11	2
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	9	—	2	—	—	2	2	1	—	2	—
TOTALS ..	1827	100	414	532	573	34	58	43	20	41	12



The following table shows the number of cases notified and deaths recorded from Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever during the past five years :—

TABLE 9.

Year	Diphtheria		Scarlet Fever	
	Notifications	Deaths	Notifications	Deaths
1948	50	Nil	403	Nil
1949	12	Nil	103	Nil
1950	39	Nil	89	Nil
1951	23	Nil	119	Nil
1952	6	Nil	175	Nil

TABLE 10.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

1952

CASES		
Notified	Treated	
	At Home	In Hospital
	—	—

TABLE 11.  
CASES OF DIPHTHERIA NOTIFIED EACH MONTH DURING 1952

Locality	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Easington .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Horden .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
South Hetton.....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Wingate .....	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Totals	1	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	6

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The main points of interest in the foregoing tables can be briefly summarised as follows :—

The number of scarlet fever notifications was greater than in the previous year. There were 175 notified cases of this disease in 1952 as compared with 119 in 1951 and 89 in 1950. Sporadic cases again occurred throughout the year and there was no definite period of increased incidence.

Diphtheria notifications numbered only six as contrasted with 23 in 1951 and 39 in 1950. None of these notifications was subsequently confirmed and thus for the second consecutive year the district has been free from this disease.

The number of cases of measles showed a decrease, 1,068 being notified as against 1,222 in 1951 and 1,002 in 1950. There was a heavy incidence of the disease during October and early November.

Whooping cough notifications numbered 340 as against 155 in 1951. Almost 45% of these notifications were received in the first quarter of the year. There was one death from this disease.

Cases of erysipelas numbered nine, an increase of four on the figure for last year.

There were 11 notifications of meningococcal infection during the year. Five of these cases were subsequently confirmed.

Eighteen cases of acute anterior poliomyelitis were reported during the year. Of these 13 were found to be suffering from the paralytic form of the disease, two were non-paralytic and in three cases the diagnosis was not confirmed. There was one death.

Seventeen cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified as compared with five in 1951.

Notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis numbered 60, an increase of one on the figures for 1951 and 26 less than that for 1950.

Sixteen cases of dysentery were notified during the year and, with one exception, these were confirmed. Most of the cases occurred in four families at Easington Colliery.

### PARATYPHOID B. FEVER

There were seven cases of paratyphoid B. fever during the year. An importation of the disease into the district was responsible for six of the cases which occurred in one household. The history is as follows :—

On the late afternoon of Wednesday, 20th August a telephone message was received to the effect that two children from Newcastle upon Tyne were staying with their grandmother at Haswell Moor and that their mother, a recent paratyphoid B. fever patient, proposed visiting the children. Enquiries made by the sanitary inspector at the address in Haswell Moor confirmed that the children had already been there for several days. Faecal specimens sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne within 24 hours of the inspector's call established that both children were infected with paratyphoid B. organisms. The younger of the two children, an infant of 12 months, was admitted to the Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Sunderland on the 22nd August. Bacteriological specimens from the remaining four members of the household were also found to be positive for *S. paratyphi B.*

#### FOOD POISONING

Nineteen cases of food poisoning were notified, eighteen of which were confirmed.

In compliance with the Ministry of Health Revised Memo 188/Med. a return in the form suggested in Appendices D (i) and D (ii) was made in respect of 18 confirmed cases as follows :—

#### ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)

1. LOCAL AUTHORITY — Easington Rural District Council :  
Year 1952.
2. FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected) RETURNED TO R.G.
 

1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Total
2	3	6	7	18
3. OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS  
Total Outbreaks — 2 ; Total Cases — 10 ;
4. OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE  
Total Outbreaks — 1 ; Total Cases — 3 ;
5. SINGLE CASES  
Agent Identified — 4 ; Unknown Cause — 1 ; Total — 5 cases.  
(One case Salm. newport ; three cases Salm. typhi-murium (aertrycke).

Whilst the two outbreaks due to identified agents affected only a small number of people an account of each may be of interest :—



At 9-15 on the morning of Monday, 28th July a general practitioner telephoned the Health Department to notify an outbreak of suspected food poisoning affecting a family in the small parish of Hutton Henry. Upon investigation the same morning it was found that there were four persons suffering from diarrhoea and sickness together with severe abdominal pains. Enquiries revealed that a quantity of cooked ham purchased outside the district was brought to the house on Sunday, 27th July by a relative who returned home early the same evening. The cooked ham was eaten for the supper meal at approximately eight o'clock on the Sunday evening by four persons, two of whom were guests. The only other member of the household, a child of under two years, was already in bed at this time. At three o'clock on the following morning, Monday, 28th July, a doctor was summoned to the house to attend to these four persons who were suffering from the symptoms described above. A sample of the cooked ham and bacteriological specimens from the patients were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne, and reports on these showed the presence of *staphylococcus aureus*. The duration of illness appears to have been between 36 and 48 hours.

The second outbreak occurred in Murton, and the history is as follows :—

At approximately 10-30 on the morning of Wednesday, 1st October a Murton doctor phoned the department to give particulars of cases of suspected food poisoning at three addresses in Murton to which he had been called during the early hours of that morning. The patients gave a history of eating sandwiches purchased from a street vendor the previous evening.

The matter was immediately investigated and visits were made to five households. With the exception of one family, where two persons were affected, the illness was confined to a single member of each household. All patients had eaten sandwich buns containing chicken and stuffing which had been purchased from a van in the street between 7-30 and 8-30 on the evening of Tuesday, 30th September. With one exception the sandwiches had been eaten at the supper meal. The onset of illness occurred about six hours afterwards with a severe attack of vomiting, diarrhoea and abdominal pains sufficient to warrant immediate medical attention. One patient, who had eaten half a sandwich at 2-30 a.m. before going to work as an underground miner, was later carried out-by to the shaft bottom. An ambulance was used to convey him from the pit head to his home at about 8-30 a.m. A portion of one of the sandwiches was taken and submitted the same day to bacteriological examination together with faecal specimens from certain of the patients. The report from the laboratory on the portion of sandwich examined read as follows :—

*Staphylococcus aureus* present—coagulase positive

Heavy contamination with faecal *B. coli*.

Much time was devoted to tracing the street vendor concerned and on Friday, 3rd October, on the invitation of the Chief Sanitary Inspector of a neighbouring Rural District Council, the man was interviewed at an address within that area where it was observed that :—

- (a) The small pantry of the dwelling house where food had been prepared for sale to the public was totally unsuitable for such purposes :
- (b) The Ministry of Food mobile catering licence held by the vendor did not authorise the sale of food in the Easington Rural District area :
- (c) The van, which stood in the street, bore no particulars of the vendor or his trade and was not suitably equipped for the sale of food to the public.

Six notifications of food poisoning were received from the Murton medical practitioners, but it was known that at least ten persons were affected by the outbreak.

Of the seven bacteriological specimens submitted to the laboratory from the patients only one showed the presence of *staphylococcus aureus*.

The Council decided that the vendor be prosecuted under Section 9 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938 for selling food which was unfit for human consumption. After hearing the case for both sides on 12th December, however, the magistrates dismissed the summons.

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## SECTION III.

TABLE 12

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following details have been extracted from the Quarterly Reports of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Quarter Ended	Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation.			Total	Number of children who were given a reinforcing injection.
	Age at date of final injection.				
	under 1	1—4	5—14		
31. 3.52	96	46	4	146	97
30. 6.52	151	88	15	254	136
30. 9.52	97	75	7	179	74
31.12.52	108	45	7	160	87
Totals	452	254	33	739	394

# SECTION IV.

## TUBERCULOSIS

TABLE 13.

Number of Cases on Register at 31st December, 1952.

PULMONARY.			NON-PULMONARY.			TOTAL CASES
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
283	259	542	177	159	336	878

TABLE 14.

New Cases and Mortality, 1952.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 2 +	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
3 to 4 +	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 9 +	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 14 +	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 24 +	8	15	2	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 34 +	7	10	1	—	1	1	—	—
35 to 44 +	5	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45 to 64 +	9	2	2	—	4	—	—	1
65 and upwards	1	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
	30	30	7	2	8	2	—	1

TABLE 15.

## COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS.

YEAR	NEW CASES						DEATHS						No. ON REGISTER AT END OF YEAR					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1943	29	30	59	18	28	46	20	17	37	8	4	12	167	140	307	208	228	436
1944	32	37	69	22	29	51	13	10	23	5	7	12	183	165	348	211	233	444
1945	29	29	58	26	27	53	17	18	35	5	4	9	189	174	363	206	218	424
1946	47	35	82	21	19	40	18	6	24	7	3	10	207	189	396	185	186	371
1947	59	37	96	21	18	39	13	20	33	9	6	15	234	189	423	189	175	364
1948	51	42	93	11	9	20	15	14	29	6	3	9	254	206	460	193	176	369
1949	38	34	72	10	8	18	20	12	32	6	2	8	261	218	479	198	178	376
1950	41	45	86	7	11	18	14	8	22	2	1	3	287	248	535	199	179	378
1951	26	33	59	4	7	11	13	7	20	1	3	4	282	247	529	180	170	350
1952	30	30	60	7	2	9	8	2	10	—	1	1	283	259	542	177	159	336



TABLE 16.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis between the ages of 15 and 25 years, during the past 10 years.

Year	Male	Female	Total	Percentage of Total Pulmonary Deaths
1943	9	7	16	43%
1944	1	4	5	21%
1945	3	8	11	31%
1946	3	3	6	25%
1947	5	11	16	48%
1948	3	4	7	24%
1949	2	5	7	22%
1950	1	1	2	9%
1951	1	2	3	15%
1952	—	—	—	Nil

TABLE 17.

The following Table shows the number of deaths from Tuberculosis (all ages) during the past five years—the figures in parenthesis indicating deaths occurring in previously notified cases of Tuberculosis.

YEAR	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1948	15 (15)	14 (13)	29 (28)	6 (2)	3 (2)	9 (4)
1949	20 (20)	12 (11)	32 (31)	6 (6)	2 (—)	8 (6)
1950	14 (12)	8 ( 8)	22 (20)	2 (2)	1 (1)	3 (3)
1951	13 ( 5)	7 ( 7)	20 (12)	1 (—)	3 (2)	4 (2)
1952	8 ( 5)	2 ( 1)	10 ( 6)	—	1 (—)	1 (—)
Totals	70 (57)	43 (40)	113 (97)	15 (10)	10 (5)	25 (15)

## TUBERCULOSIS

The main points of interest in the foregoing tables can be summarised as follows :—

Sixty new cases of the pulmonary form of the disease were notified during the year comprising 30 males and 30 females. This was an increase of one upon the figure for 1951 which was 59, made up of 26 males and 33 females.

New notifications of the non-pulmonary form of the disease numbered nine, a decrease of two upon the figure for 1951.

Deaths from the pulmonary form of the disease showed a decrease from 20 in 1951 to 10, while in the non-pulmonary form only one death was recorded as against four in 1951.

The number of new cases among females in the 15 to 35 age group formed 78% of all new female cases.

The mortality rate for the district for the respiratory form of the disease in 1952 was 0·12 per 1,000 of the population, which compares favourably with the figure of 0·21 per 1,000 for England and Wales as a whole. The mortality rate for the district in the non-pulmonary type of the disease was 0·01 per 1,000 as compared with the national rate for 1952 of 0·028 per 1,000.

The provision of suitable housing accommodation for tuberculous households in the district has for many years been a problem difficult to solve. During the year, however, the matter was raised by the Consultant Chest Physicians of the Sunderland and Hartlepool Hospital Management Committees, who are responsible for the well-being of tuberculous patients in this district. Having regard to the long waiting lists for Council houses and to the limitations imposed upon the Local Authority's housing programme, and also bearing in mind the rapid growth of the new town of Peterlee, an approach was made to the Development Corporation requesting consideration for the re-housing of tuberculous households living under overcrowded or insanitary conditions. It is gratifying to be able to report the Corporation's assurance that every consideration would be given to recommendations either from this department or from the Consultant Chest Physicians on behalf of such cases.

There remains, however, the problem of rehousing for those tuberculous families living in parts of the district remote from Peterlee and for others where the family income is only sufficient to allow payment of a modest rental.

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## SECTION V

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

To the Medical Officer of Health

Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting a report of the work undertaken by the Inspectors of this department during the year 1952.

The complement of staff remained as for 1951 and in October an application was received from M. Kay to become a pupil in the department, to which the Council agreed.

Statistics show that steady progress is being maintained in all the Public Health services, but greater activity in respect of housing repairs throughout the district would be welcomed. The heavy cost of materials is no doubt responsible for retarding a higher standard in property maintenance.

The supervision of food premises has taken up a considerable amount of the inspectors' time but good results are being achieved in this direction.

I am again grateful for the assistance of my colleagues in the Health Department and for the ready co-operation received from the chief officers.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R. E. V. WARRAND,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

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WATER SUPPLY

Water undertakings supplying the District are :—

- Sunderland and South Shields Water Company.
- Durham County Water Board.
- Wingate and District Water Company.
- The National Coal Board.
- Easington Rural District Council.

Sixty-one samples of mains water were taken from public stand pipes or consumers' premises and submitted for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne. Five of these were found to be bacteriologically unsatisfactory and one suspicious.

No progress has yet been made on the covering of the reservoirs as mentioned in last year's report.

A typical analysis of a mains supply is as follows :—

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS	PARTS PER MILLION
Total Solids .. .. .	478
Chlorine as Chloride .. .. .	51
Chlorine expressed as Sodium Chloride	84
Nitrogen as Nitrates .. .. .	1·2
Nitrogen as Nitrites .. .. .	nil.
Free Ammonia .. .. .	nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia .. .. .	0·02
Alkalinity .. .. .	277
Total Hardness .. .. .	396
Total Hardness (degrees) .. .. .	27·7
Suspended Matter .. .. .	nil.
Iron .. .. .	trace
pH Value .. .. .	7·5

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

- Organisms visible on agar after 48 hours incubation at 37°C. .. .. . 2 per ml.
- Coliform organisms absent in 1, 10 and 100 ml.



Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains (a) direct to houses (b) by means of standpipes, are given in the following table.

LOCALITY	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Estimated population	Area in acres	Number of houses and other premises with dwelling ac'm'dat'n	No. of Houses with mains supply direct to houses	No. of Houses with mains supply from stand pipes	No. of Houses without mains supply
Burdon ..	84	1286	23			
Seaton with Slingley ..	439	1392	133	171	—	—
Warden Law ..	50	500	15			
Castle Eden ..	315	1542	133	127	—	6
Cold Hesledon ..	1019	1030	285			
Dalton-le-Dale ..	735	811	246	443	88	—
Easington with Thorpe .. ..	10844	3716	3045	3042	—	3
Haswell .. ..	2725				22	—
South Hetton ..	3307	3766	1799	1613	158	6
Hutton Henry ..	566		168		20	
Station Town ..	2453	2016	661	736	70	3
Hawthorn ..	318	1414	134	132	—	2
Blackhall ..	6971		1989			
Hesledens ..	1445	2654	485	2428	46	—
Murton East ..	9505	1406	2734	2175	557	2
Sheraton with Hulam ..	146	2346	41	18	—	23
Nesbitt .. ..	8	333	3	3	—	—
Shotton .. ..	6776	2270	1865	1854	11	—
Horden ..	16759	2453	4679	4673	—	6
Thornley ..	4509	1148	1300	1280	20	—
Wingate .. ..	4169		1225		2	
Wheatley Hill ..	6095	4570	1683	3490	14	9
Trimdon ..	1952		608		1	
TOTALS ..	81190	34653	23254	22185	1009	60

The following table shows the principal nuisances dealt with during the year under the Public Health Act, 1936 :—

Nature of Nuisance	No. of Visits	Notices Served		Nuisances Abated
		Informal	Formal	
Foul Conditions .....	74	15	1	14
Structural Defects .....	229	87	2	69
Ashpits & Privies .....	11	4	—	1
Deposits of Refuse and Manure .....	57	18	—	20
Waterclosets .....	40	12	1	14
Defective Yard Paving	2	2	—	2
House Drainage—				
Defective Traps .....	38	14	2	10
Other Faults .....	176	38	16	41
Water Supply (Defective Fittings) .....	30	13	2	13
Animals improperly kept	33	16	—	14
Smoke Nuisances .....	27	4	—	3
Other Nuisances .....	170	19	—	23
Dustbins .....	198	64	26	58
Public Halls & Cinemas	25	3	—	—
Licensed Premises .....	40	1	—	—
Verminous Premises—				
Council Houses .....	77	1	—	1
Private Houses .....	51	12	—	6
Infectious Diseases				
Enquiries .....	344	—	—	—
Infectious Diseases				
Disinfections .....	274	—	—	—
Tents, Vans & Sheds	49	—	—	—
	1945	323	50	289

## SCHOOLS

Sporadic inspections of schools in the district were made in connection with sanitary accommodation and washing facilities. No nuisances were reported in this direction.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT AND COLLIERY SPOILBANKS

The position remains very similar to other years. Routine inspections have been made in conjunction with the Area Inspector of Alkali, etc. Works of the Ministry of Health at all collieries disposing of waste on the surface.

Slight improvement was observed at spoilbanks where "bulldozing" had been in operation.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Three sites continue to be used in the Crimdon area and are subject to regular visits especially during the summer months. No statutory nuisance was observed.

## VERMINOUS PREMISES

Twenty-six Council houses and 11 private houses were disinfested of bed bugs. Accounts were rendered in the case of all privately owned dwellings to cover the cost of time and materials used.

In 103 cases of infestation of house property by cockroaches, etc., advice and active assistance were given.

## DISINFECTION OF PREMISES

563 visits and re-visits were made to houses during the year in respect of infectious disease and food poisoning enquiries and for the purpose of disinfection in the case of the former. The following table shows the number of houses disinfected following infectious disease during the year :—

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	175
Diphtheria	..	..	..	6
Meningococcal Infection	..	..	..	11
Paratyphoid Fever	..	..	..	2
Dysentery	..	..	..	9
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	42
Erysipelas	..	..	..	9
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	13
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	17
				<hr/>
				284
				<hr/>

### LICENSED PREMISES, CLUBS, ETC.

37 inspections of licensed premises and clubs.

1 informal notice was served on an occupier.

### CINEMAS AND PUBLIC HALLS

Twenty-five inspections were made in respect of heating, lighting, ventilation and sanitary accommodation. Verbal notices were given in three cases and complied with.

### RODENT CONTROL

This section of the department was strengthened by the appointment in April of a permanent Rodent Control Operative to assist in investigations and treatments of rat and mouse infestations. This addition to the staff has allowed more time for the inspection of farms and agricultural property generally and has also reduced the requirement for temporary labour on sewer maintenance. One labourer is temporarily engaged to assist the Operative in this work. Two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out during the financial year at six-monthly intervals. The following table shows that of the 1680 man holes baited 650 gave evidence of rat infestation.

### SEWERS

	No of Manholes Baited.	No. of Manholes Baited showing part takes of pre-bait.	No. of Manholes Baited showing complete takes of pre-bait.	Approximate Cost.	Recoverable by Grant.	Nett Cost to Council.
Maintenance Treatment (Year Ending 31/3/53)	1680	357	293	£492 1 8	£246 0 10	£246 0 10

The table overleaf summarises the work undertaken during the year. It will be observed that properties inspected either as a result of complaints received or in the course of normal daily routine showed 131 infestations by rats. Sixteen of these were found to be heavy or major infestations and 115 minor. Twenty properties were found to be seriously infested by mice. Altogether 222 properties affected by rat or mouse infestation were treated during the year.



# Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Report for Year Ended 31st December, 1952.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Authority 1	Dwelling Houses 2	Agri- cultural 3	All other (including Business Premises) 4	Total 5
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 and 2) ..	29	22670	145	1638	24482
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1952 as a result of (a) notification (b) survey or otherwise (Notes 1, 2 and 3) .. .. .	(a) 17	169	2	32	220
	(b) 12	14	—	3	29
III. Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be infested by rats (Notes 1, 2 and 3) .. .. .	Major 9	1	2	4	16
	Minor 16	86	—	13	115
IV. Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be seriously infested by mice (Notes 1, 2 and 3) ..	1	9	—	10	20
V. Number of infested properties (see Sections III and IV) treated by the Local Authority (Notes 1, 2 and 3)	29	157	2	34	222
VI. Number of notices served under Section 4 :					
(1) Treatment .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing) ..	2	19	—	3	24
VII. Number of cases in which default action was taken by the Local Authority following the issue of a notice under Section 4 .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
VIII. Legal Proceedings (see overleaf) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
IX. Number of "block" control schemes carried out—6.					

### Notes

- NOTE 1. (a) With the exception of agricultural properties, a property means one which is entered separately in the Valuation Roll for the area.
- (b) Only properties devoted to agricultural or horticultural production, in respect of which returns are made under the Agriculture Act, 1947, should be entered as agricultural properties.
- NOTE 2. (a) Council houses should be entered in Column (2).
- (b) Premises used by the Local Authority for the purposes of trade should be entered in Column (4).
- (c) Sowers should not be included.
- (d) Combined dwelling and business premises, where occupied by the same person, should be regarded as business premises and should be entered in Column (4). Where the dwelling and business parts of the premises are in separate occupation, separate entries should be made in Columns (2) and (4).
- NOTE 3. For the purpose of completing Sections II, III, IV and V, each property should be entered **once only** in respect of inspections, infestations or treatments.

### HOUSING

A total of 493 Council houses was inspected during the year either on the occasion of the house becoming vacant or prior to exchange. The general condition of the property was invariably reported and both the Surveyor and the Accountant informed of details of disrepair. A valuable opportunity is given under this system of inspection prior to exchanges being confirmed to recommend refusal where a house is observed to be wilfully neglected or verminous. Colliery property in one parish is also subject to this system.

Forty-five requests in respect of Council houses were investigated by the District Inspectors. Reports on the living conditions and circumstances of the applicants were prepared and forwarded to local members for their information and consideration.

### INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES UNDER THE HOUSING ACT, 1936

Number of visits and re-visits	..	..	..	..	2,475
Number of informal notices served	..	..	..	..	145
Number of statutory notices served	..	..	..	..	23
Number of notices complied with	..	..	..	..	109

### FACTORY ACT, 1937

During the year 137 inspections of premises subject to the provisions of the above Act were made, principally in connection with sanitary accommodation, and, in those factories where mechanical power is not employed to ensure adequate lighting, ventilation, heating, general cleanliness and prevention of overcrowding in workrooms.

Informal action to remedy defects was taken on 13 occasions with a satisfactory conclusion during the year in 11 instances.

### SHOPS ACT, 1950

This Act consolidates the Shops Act 1912–1938. The functions of the District Council are unchanged and limited to administering those sections relating to provision and maintenance of sanitary conveniences, ventilation and temperature.

### SECTION 73 (2). SANITARY AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS IN SHOPS

Sub-section 2 of Section 73 of the Act authorises County Councils, with the approval of the Secretary of State, to make arrangements for the exercise of their powers under Section 38 of the Act by the Councils of rural districts and of certain urban districts as agents for the County Council.

In March of this year Durham County Council intimated that they were agreeable to make such arrangements subject to their being relieved of all financial responsibility in the matter, and enquired whether this Council would be prepared to undertake the duties prescribed by Section 38 of the Act on the understanding that they (the District Council) assumed full financial responsibility. This Council agreed and Durham County Council were accordingly informed of the decision. A further communication from the County Council, however, stated that, as there appeared considerable divergence of opinion between district councils as to whether or not to accept delegation under the appropriate section of the Shops Act, the local government committee had decided not to proceed with the suggested delegation.

It is, in my opinion, regrettable that district councils throughout the County did not take advantage of this proposal.

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FACTORIES ACTS 1937 & 1948

**PART I OF THE ACT.**

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of			Occupiers prosecuted (5)
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)		
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority .. .. .	18	50	5		—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Auth- ority .. .. .	83	171	7		—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	37	39	—		—
TOTAL .. .. .	138	260	12		—



## 2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) .. ..	5	7	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	1	1	—	1	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .. ..	4	3	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	1	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	3	2	—	—	—
(a) insufficient .. ..	9	6	—	2	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ..	4	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .. ..	27	20	—	3	—

# PART VIII OF THE ACT

## OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

NATURE OF WORK  (1)	SECTION 110			SECTION 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)  (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council  (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists  (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises  (5)	Notices served  (6)	Prosecutions  (7)
Wearing apparel— Making, etc.	2	—	—	—	—	—

## SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

### Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

#### MEAT

At the Ministry of Food controlled abattoir, Station Town, 20,831 animals were slaughtered during the year, showing an increase of 4,408 as compared with the previous year.

All condemned carcase meat and offal was salvaged for industrial purposes and existing arrangements and guarantees continued under the general supervision of the Ministry of Food.

During the year under review the line system of slaughtering and dressing of beasts was introduced in the abattoir and an electric carcase saw was installed. The two hand operated carcase hoists were fitted with electric motors and the new system resulted in greater output from fewer slaughtermen.

Other improvements carried out were the re-building of the sheep pen, installation of two new galvanised-iron pig scalding tanks and more effective artificial lighting in the slaughtering hall.

#### OTHER FOODS

The Inspectors of the department have continued to issue condemnation certificates in support of traders' claims against suppliers. These certificates are normally accepted without question by the suppliers.

There was an increase of 142 stones in the weight of other foods condemned as compared with the previous year.

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	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number Slaughtered at Govern- ment Controlled Abattoir ..	3088 plus 53 Casualties	664 plus 87 Casualties	500 plus 298 Casualties	14099 plus 92 Casualties	1710 plus 240 Casualties
Number Slaughtered under private licence ..	—	—	—	1	439
Whole Carcases condemned (T.B. only) ..	4 Casualties	9 Casualties	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned (T.B. only)	356		—	—	53
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B. ..	9·14%	.....	—	—	2·72%
Carcases condemned (All diseases excluding T.B. ..	1 Casualty	—	2 Casualties	1 Casualty	6 Casualties
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned. (All diseases and conditions excluding T.B.)	798		2	267	29
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease or condition other than T.B. ..	25·4%		·25%	1·89%	1·49%



# Provisions, Fish, etc., Condemned as being Unfit for Human Consumption during year, 1952.

Cause of Unfitness	Provisions, Loose	Tinned Foods	Fish, etc.
Decomposition/Fire	Bacon and Ham 6 3 Christmas Pdgs. 4 Cooked Ham 1 0 Eggs (191) 3 Jellied Veal Manufactured— Meat Products 19 1 Sundries 9 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ Tomatoes 1 3 Butter 1 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ Cheese 13 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ Cereals, etc. 25 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cake 1 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ Flour 10 1 Dried Fruits 6 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	72 Tins Fish Products 2 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ 4015 Tins Fruit 327 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ 1170 Tins Meat Products 223 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ 155 Tins Milk 11 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ 4 Tins Peanut Butter 4 14 Tins Preserves 1 5 1 Tin Sundries 1 1023 Tins Veg. Products 76 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ 69 Jars Preserves 5 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ 3 Jars Sundries 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 3 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ 1 0 1 12
Rancidity and Mould Stains Extensive Mould Damage by Fire, Contamin- ation by Mice and Mite Infestation Fermentation Decomposition due to Blown and Damaged Tins			
Breakages			
Decomposition			Fillets (Cod) 1 3 Fish Cakes 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ Kippers 1 0 Shrimps 1 12

Total weight of Meat and Edible Offal condemned .. .. .	2,986 sts. 9 lbs.
Total weight of Tinned Foods, etc., condemned .. .. .	750 sts. 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Total Weight ..	3,736 sts. 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
= 23 tons 7 cwts. 0 sts. 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	

Year ending 31st December	Weight of Meat and Other Foods Condemned			
	tons.	cwts.	sts.	lbs.
1938 .. .. .	2	1	6	3
1939 .. .. .	3	16	5	13
1940 .. .. .	21	1	3	0
1941 .. .. .	17	12	5	2
1942 .. .. .	11	3	4	7
1943 .. .. .	18	12	4	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
1944 .. .. .	21	4	4	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
1945 .. .. .	25	11	1	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
1946 .. .. .	23	1	0	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
1947 .. .. .	29	13	0	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
1948 .. .. .	30	3	7	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
1949 .. .. .	24	18	3	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
1950 .. .. .	33	3	6	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
1951 .. .. .	29	4	3	10
1952 .. .. .	23	7	0	9 $\frac{1}{4}$

### PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924 AND 1935

The two vehicles used for the transport of meat from the abattoir were frequently examined prior to loading and were found to be generally maintained in a satisfactory condition. There were, however, complaints concerning the handling and delivery of meat in certain parts of the district. To encourage a higher standard of hygiene in this respect a circular letter, with extracts from the above Regulations on transport and handling of meat, was sent to all butchers and meat handlers in the district.

### DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894–1909

No cases of notifiable disease, swine fever, anthrax, etc., were confirmed during the year.

### SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

All animals at the abattoir are mechanically stunned prior to slaughter by properly licensed and competent slaughtermen and as far as practicable, having regard to the limited facilities available, all precautions were taken to prevent any unnecessary suffering by the animals.

**Carcases, Organs and Edible Offal condemned as being unfit for Human Consumption during year 1952.**

	Carcases, etc.				Lungs (Sets)			Hearts		Kid- neys	Livers			Heads & Tongues		Sets Stomachs and Intestines	Fat	Udders	
	Beef	Veal	Mutton	Pork	Ox	Sheep	Pig	Ox	Pig	Ox	Ox	Sheep	Pig	Ox	Pig	Ox	Ox	Cow	Pig
Abscesses .. .. .			1								156	4	3						
Actinomycosis .. .. .					1									18					
Bacillary Necrosis .. .. .											2								
Bruising and Injury .. .. .			1 st.																
Capillary Angioma .. .. .											3								
Cirrhosis .. .. .											272		6						
Congestion .. .. .						4													
Cystic Conditions .. .. .					160														
Cysticercus Bovis .. .. .														1					
Decomposition .. .. .	15 sts.		6c	13c													16 sts.		
Distomatosis .. .. .												284							
Emaciation &/or Oedema .. .. .	6c	1c	1c+4 sts.	9c															
Immaturity .. .. .		1c																	
Mastitis .. .. .																		52	8
Nephritis .. .. .										6									
Pericarditis (including Septic & Traumatic)								4											
Peritonitis .. .. .																4	1		
Pneumonia .. .. .		1c				27	5												
Pyæmia .. .. .	1c	2c																	
Septic Conditions .. .. .				5c															
Traumatism .. .. .			1 st.																
Tuberculosis .. .. .	13c+21 sts.				164		6				28		3	89	10	57	8	1	
Uraemia .. .. .				1c															

"C" indicates Casualty Animal.





The number of licences issued during the year to persons authorising them to slaughter animals in a slaughter house or knackers yard was 43, including 32 renewals. This brings the total number of licensed slaughtermen in the district to 73.

#### TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1938

No cows were received at the abattoir during the year under the above Order.

#### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

In the rural district regular inspections continued to be made of all premises where food is prepared or stored for purposes of sale. Wherever it has been felt necessary district sanitary inspectors have urged traders to provide refrigeration equipment.

The number of food premises registered, visited and subject to informal action during the year are detailed in the following table :—

Premises	Number Registered	Number of Inspections	Notices Served	Notices Complied With
Fried Fish Shops	57	160	21	19
Butchers' Shops	58	83	3	2
Ice Cream Shops	121	346	3	1
Restaurants, etc.	Nil	103	8	7
Other Food Prem.	Nil.	722	59	32
TOTALS	236	1414	94	61

Thirteen applications for registration of premises for "the sale of ice-cream" under Section 14 of the Act were received during the year, all of which were approved. In the majority of cases the applications, by mutual consent, were not submitted for consideration until the shopkeeper had discussed his proposal with the inspector for the particular district and satisfied him on the arrangements provided.

A total of 136 samples of ice-cream was taken during the year for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne. The villages at which the samples were collected and their grading are shown in table form. All samples attaining grades 1 and 2 are regarded as satisfactory. The steady improvement in the bacterial purity of this confection is shown clearly by the following comparison :—

Year	No. of samples taken	No. satisfactory	Percentage satisfactory
1949	194	142	73%
1950	155	127	82%
1951	163	145	89%
1952	136	126	93%

(All samples submitted to Methylene Blue Reduction Test)

The collection of samples for fat analysis instituted in 1949 at the request of the Ministry of Food was continued throughout the year.

An additional 60 samples of ice-cream manufactured within the rural district were collected for this purpose and examined by Mr. W. Gordon Carey, Public Analyst, Newcastle upon Tyne.

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## ICE CREAM SAMPLING—YEAR 1952.

District	Methylene Blue										Fat Content			
	Grades										Above	%	Below	%
	1	%	2	%	3	%	4	%	5					
Blackhall ..	8	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	100	—	—	—
Blackhall Rocks	4	66	1	17	1	17	—	—	—	6	100	—	—	—
Easington ..	1	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Easington Colliery	10	84	1	8	1	8	—	—	—	8	100	—	—	—
Haswell ..	2	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Horden ..	9	75	2	17	—	—	—	1	—	8	89	—	1	11
Hutton Henry ..	1	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Murton ..	27	88	2	6	2	6	—	—	—	10	100	—	—	—
Shotton ..	7	88	—	—	1	12	—	—	—	4	100	—	—	—
South Hetton ..	4	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Station Town ..	9	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thornley ..	4	80	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	100	—	—	—
Wheatley Hill ..	8	89	1	11	—	—	—	—	—	2	67	—	1	33
Wingate ..	23	82	2	7	3	11	—	—	—	11	92	—	1	8
	117	86	9	7	8	6	2	1	—	57	95	3	—	5

Total Methylene Blue Samples .. .. 136

Total Fat Content Samples .. .. 60

## MILK SUPPLY—SUPERVISION

Regular inspections of dairies have been carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors and any infringements of the Regulations have been reported to those concerned.

A total of 351 milk samples was submitted for examination during the year consisting of 53 samples of raw milk, which were tested for keeping quality and cleanliness, 252 samples of pasteurised and sterilised which were subjected to additional tests designed to establish the efficiency of heat treatment, and 46 samples taken for detection of tubercle bacilli. Arising from the latter examination all samples proved negative with the exception of one which, because of the death of the guinea pig during the test, was returned as inconclusive.

On those occasions when raw milk samples failed to satisfy the prescribed tests and the District Inspectors reported favourably on the distributors' premises and methods, copies of the bacteriologist's reports were forwarded for information to the County Milk Production Officer with whom full and friendly co-operation is maintained.

Four unsatisfactory results were received in respect of pasteurised milk. These were referred to the appropriate County Health Inspectors, by whose Authority the establishments were licensed. All sampling work is shown in the table overleaf.

During the course of the year 321 inspections of distributors premises were made and five informal notices served in respect of infringements of the provisions of the Regulations. In all cases ready compliance with the terms of the notices was obtained.

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MILK SAMPLING.

351 samples of raw and heat treated milk were taken for examination during 1952, with the following results :—

	No. of Sam- ples Taken	Methylene Blue Test			Phosphatase Test			Turbidity Test			Biological Examination for Tuberculosis			
		Satis- fact- ory	Un- satis- fact- ory	% Un- satis- fact- ory	Satis- fact- ory	Un- satis- fact- ory	% Un- satis- fact- ory	Neg- ative	Pos- itive	% Pos- itive	Neg- ative	Pos- itive	In- conc- lusive	% Pos- itive
Raw Milk ..	95	43	10	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	41	—	1	—
Pasteurised Milk ..	246	116	5	4	117	4	3	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Sterilised Milk ..	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—

## SEWERAGE AND WATER SUPPLY

(Contributed by the Engineer and Surveyor).

### SEWERAGE

**HASWELL.** An inspection and investigation of heavy flooding recurring at Hessewelle Crescent, Haswell, culminated in a surface water scheme being designed and executed, consisting of the laying of 220 yards of 21 in. diameter concrete tubes and 126 yards of 6 in. diameter glazed earthenware pipes. To these mains were connected two new road gullies, and the whole scheme eventually discharged to a stream which was cleaned out and regraded by Durham County Council Land Drainage Department. By experience from freak storms over the past months, this scheme has appeared to have solved the problem.

**EASINGTON COLLIERY.** A backing up of the sewer and flooding of the Station Cottages at Easington Colliery necessitated the relaying of 106 yards of 15 in. diameter glazed earthenware pipes to new gradients, together with new connection from the Cottages. This has eliminated the complaint in this vicinity.

**Miners' Welfare Grounds :** Originally the Miners' Welfare Grounds and Caretaker's house were connected to a septic tank within the curtilage of the grounds. Due to the Welfare extensions of the Pavilion and Public Conveniences, the septic tank was unable to cope with the new additional discharge. The septic tank scheme was abandoned and the whole scheme connected to the main outfall sewer, which constituted the laying of 174 yards of 6 in. diameter glazed earthenware pipes.

**SOUTH HETTON.** The Ambleside site area of South Hetton experienced flooding during heavy rains. It was proved that this flooding was caused by storm water collecting from the surrounding catchment area. A system of herringbone field drains was laid and eventually connected to the main surface water sewer. This work has eliminated any further flooding in this area.

**HORDEN.** Due to general deterioration and subsidence in the Hope Avenue area of Horden continual stoppages and flooding was experienced. A reconstruction scheme was executed in this area, consisting of the relaying of 173 yards of 18" concrete tubes and 173 yards of glazed earthenware pipes. This reconstruction scheme appears to have solved the problem.

**CRIMDON PUMPING STATION.** The amount of effluent being pumped from Crimdon Pumping Station during the closed season gave cause for alarm inasmuch as it was found by the electricity meter readings that the pumps were working more or

less continuously and infiltration to the gravity main to the Pumping Station was suspected. A full investigation into approximately 500 yards of gravity main was carried out. In four instances it was found that leaky joints were allowing surface water to infiltrate into the gravity main. In one other instance there was a definite break in one of the pipes causing further infiltration. When these faults were rectified it was found that the amount of electricity required at Crimdon Pumping Station was reduced by two-thirds.

**CASTLE EDEN.** It is proposed to construct 240 yards of 9 in. glazed earthenware pipes, 350 yards of 4 in. cast-iron rising main, together with a pumping station and ancillary works to incorporate the Castle Eden district on the waterborne sewerage system. To assist this scheme and because of the fact that cast-iron pipes are on 18 months to two years delivery, 350 yards of 4 in. cast-iron pumping main was retrieved from the Wheatley Hill area where the pumping station in this vicinity is now dis-used.

## WATER SUPPLY

**RESERVOIRS.** The two reservoirs owned by the Council, one at Thornley—capacity 750,000 gallons, and one at Haswell—capacity 148,200 gallons, are inspected daily and graph records made of the level of the water, and records kept of the quantity of water pumped daily at the New Winning.

The embankment around Thornley Reservoir was repaired where settlement had occurred, and a barbed wire extension to prevent trespass was fixed to the fence around Haswell reservoir.

**DISTRICT METERS.** District meters, numbering 18, are read fortnightly and consumptions are recorded.

**PRIVATE METERS.** Four No. additional meters were installed during the year bringing the total to 152—141 of which are the property of the Council and are supplied on a rental. All private meters are read quarterly.

**WASTE PREVENTION.** Regular and systematic inspections are made of domestic water fittings in all properties supplied and re-washing of taps and ball taps is done free of charge. The amount of waste in the area is down to a minimum and the position is generally satisfactory.

**NEW WORKS.** To accommodate housing development in South Hetton and Thornley new works were carried out as follows :—



- South Hetton — 270 yards of 4 in. main was laid and lead connection pipes laid from main to curtilage of properties. Two new hydrants were installed.
- Thornley — 440 yards of 3 in. main was laid and lead connection pipes laid to curtilage of properties. Two new hydrants were installed.

REPLACEMENT OF MAINS. 180 yards of 2 in. main salvaged as redundant from Haswell Moor was laid to replace  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. wrought iron pipe laid as a temporary measure to supply South Wingate during the war, when cast-iron pipes were unobtainable.

MAINTENANCE OF MAINS. Trouble from leaking joints was experienced south of Thornley Crossing on the 6 in. main supplying Haswell.

During the year 18 joints were opened up and re-caulked. Although there was no evidence of general movement or subsidence in any single case, the trouble was probably due to a general movement of the hill.

WINGATE PARISH—HURWORTH BURN AREA. At the request of the Council and in accordance with the provisions of Section 11 of the Water Act, 1945, the Durham County Water Board took into their area of supply part of the Parish of Wingate in the Hurworth Burn area, in which there are six farms none of which have a pipe supply. As the nearest existing Council main is in Station Town, it was considered to be impracticable at a reasonable cost to supply the farms referred from that source.

HYDRANTS. Indicator plates showing the position of 137 hydrants have been fixed.

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## PUBLIC CLEANSING

(Contributed by the Cleansing Superintendent)

### STATISTICS, 1952

Number of Premises	..	..	..	23,917
Number of Collections	..	..	..	2,539,991
Total Refuse Collected (Tons)	..	..	..	74,000
Yield of Refuse per house per year	..	..	..	62 Cwts.

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Total Net Cost	..	..	..	..	£57,231 3s. 8d.
Cost per House	..	..	..	..	47s. 10d.
Cost per Collection	..	..	..	..	5.4d.

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Number of Miles travelled	..	..	..	125,354
Number of Gallons of Petrol consumed	..	..	..	26,248
Miles per gallon	..	..	..	4.77

### COLLECTION OF HOUSEHOLD REFUSE

Revision of rounds, whilst causing minor delays, has resulted in an improved service and almost the whole of your district has been visited twice per week and in some cases the third time has been necessary. The work has been carried out satisfactorily and few complaints received in the department. A sound working arrangement during inclement weather has been devised and operated throughout the year, with minimum delays.

The larger type vehicle had ample scope for proving its worth and results were most gratifying. Large housing estates and long hauls have been the order with increased collections and reduced mileage. The possibilities are beyond early expectations and it can be visualised that proportionately fewer vehicles and drivers will be required over the years.

Whilst the report shows an improvement in collections of household refuse streets continue to look dirty by reason of the accumulations of stones and small coal. The Council is however, exercising themselves in this direction with a view to some satisfactory improvement.

### DISPOSAL AREAS

The muledozer has worked successfully on many schemes of levelling and consolidating on both used and unused areas. The machine is highly satisfactory for this work and a low cost of 5.92d. for every ton of household refuse handled compares very favourably with other authorities using the same machine.

Control of all areas has been exercised and nuisances have been at a minimum.

In some cases children have made the Council's refuse disposal areas a playground and apart from undoing very important work they have exposed themselves to danger from fire and other undesirable items. Teachers and police have been informed and it is hoped that this practice will cease.

Vermin have been dealt with periodically by the Council's Rodent Officer and satisfactory results obtained.

#### DEPOTS.

The standard of cleanliness was maintained during the year and only necessary repairs carried out.

It was agreed that the existing stables at Horden depot be demolished and replaced by a suitable building to garage six vehicles. Plans are being prepared for approval in the new year.

#### DUST BINS

Advice on the proper use of the dust bin will be delivered to Council House tenants in an attempt to prolong the life of the bin. The lid plays a most important part and should be kept in position on every possible occasion. Whilst I am mindful of the difficulties, due to the method of emptying, I cannot at the moment suggest any alternative in view of the high cost involved.

#### TRADE REFUSE

Trade refuse is collected during normal rounds and quarterly accounts submitted. The charge of 7d. per bin or its equivalent is in relation to the number of bins or quantity. 68 tradespeople throughout the district are charged in this way bringing in a total of £159 12s. 6d. during the year.

#### PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

During the year three new conveniences were erected and unfortunately have not received fair treatment. The Council has therefore been obliged, as a safeguard, to reduce certain standards and whilst the internal appearance will be more austere the pleasing external design will remain.

Daily service is given to all existing conveniences and urinals, but in some cases it is labour in vain, as I feel they should be demolished and replaced. However, the most pressing need is not replacements but more conveniences in many parts of the district.

## PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

A "get together" between the workers and the Council resulted in a new scale of clothing being established. This is a big step forward and discussion on matters of this kind should be encouraged. However, it must not be assumed that the present type of cloth is the complete answer and only actual wearing under working conditions will determine future issues. The scale at present is satisfactory and, I understand, appreciated by the staff.

## SALVAGE—INCENTIVE BONUS

It was decided during the year that the Council's share of the incentive bonus should be put aside for a new Cleansing vehicle. The vehicle is now in service at Shotton and Wingate. By a painted inscription on the side of the vehicle the public were informed that their collections had been responsible for its purchase.

Thanks are extended to all who have saved wastepaper and made such sales possible.

## SCRAP METALS, ETC.

The Council's drive for metals, bottles, jars, rags, etc., commenced on 1st January, 1952. The scheme was based on similar lines to that for wastepaper with a six monthly bonus for collections. This decision was notified to the public and persons were warned about removing any saleable items of salvage from the disposal areas.

Whilst I am aware of the fact that much more could be accomplished in this field I am satisfied with the results, bearing in mind that the first priority must be an efficient cleansing service.

## PETERLEE

The building of a new town within the rural district gives the Council the opportunity of practising modern methods in public cleansing. I understand that the Corporation will cultivate the grass verges and generally create attractiveness in and around the buildings. Unless, however, the depositing of litter is restricted much of the creativeness will be spoilt by unsightliness.

By the end of the year 700 houses were being serviced by my department and recent test weights revealed that the yield of refuse per household was slightly less than from modern Council houses. These weights include the ever-present stones left around from deliveries of coal.



The provision of a dust bin recess conveniently placed has reduced in many cases unnecessary travel when collecting. This saving, measured in miles, would be considerable on twice weekly collections during the year.

The Council, anticipating the growth of Peterlee, provided a suitable refuse collecting vehicle which will "take on" the natural expansion of the new town to the end of 1953.

In concluding I would personally thank my foremen and outside staff for their loyalty during the past year. Whilst difficulties are experienced, it is abundantly clear that teams have pulled their weight and the relationship with the public is of a high order.

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William Barlow & Son, Ltd.  
West Hartlepool

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